

(b) the amount utilized by these centres out of the amount allocated to them, head-wise;

(c) whether the accounts of these centres have been audited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof separately?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Mentally Retarded Persons

2479. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mentally handicapped in the age group of 6-14 years in the country;

(b) the number of institutions set up in the country to provide training and also treatment to these persons;

(c) the training capacity of each of these institutions;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the number of mentally retarded is much more than the capacity created in the country for their training and rehabilitation; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the prevailing situation?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No survey has been conducted for assessing the number of mentally handicapped persons in the country in the age group of 6-14. However, a sample survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in 1991 for persons with delayed mental development between 1-14 age, estimates that about 3% of the estimated child population has delayed mental development. Certain studies conducted by some organisations suggest that about 2-2.5% of estimated population suffer from mental retardation.

(b) and (c). According to the information furnished by Rehabilitation Council of India, the total number of institutions providing services (including training) during the year 1995 in the field of mental retardation was 626. Each organisation has an average capacity of 40 children.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Ministry of Welfare has established National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped at Secunderabad with the primary objective to train professionals to provide services of rehabilitation and special education. The Institute has 5 Regional Centres at Calcutta, Mumbai, New Delhi, Patna and Dimapur. In addition, the Institute has 13 supported centres and 7 affiliated centres which provide training to special educators.

Apart from this, Ministry of Welfare has been giving grant-in-aid to the voluntary organisations for training and rehabilitation of the mentally retarded persons. Setting up of a National Trust has also been proposed for providing total care to persons with mental retardation and cerebral palsy and also to manage the properties bequeathed to them.

A comprehensive Act, namely, The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has been enacted as Act No. 1 of 1996 for ensuring the provision of preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation, social security measures etc.

#### Setting up of TV Studio in Sikkim

2480. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations for setting up of a TV studio/centre at Gangtok in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a TV studio/centre at Gangtok; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). Representations are received from various quarters, including the representatives of the people, for expansion of TV service throughout the country including the State of Sikkim. TV Studio at Gangtok in Sikkim is at present under implementation. Site has been taken over, building plans finalised and most of the equipments procured. Meanwhile, a play back facility has been provided at the High Power TV Transmitter (HPT), Gangtok w.e.f. 14.7.1996.

[Translation]

#### Financial Assistance for Development of Deva Tourist Centre

2481. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any financial assistance for the development of Deva Tourist centre in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of the importance of Deva Tourist centre, the amount of the assistance provided by the Union Government is very less;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;